

book containing advice, suggestions, precepts, ideals, or schedules for the intellectual, moral, physical, and social training of a gentleman or courtier.

To appreciate a comparison between a book written in the eighteenth century and books written in the sixteenth century, a person may need to review the conditions and characteristics prevailing in these two periods.

The first half of the eighteenth century is characterized by rapid social development. In the first two decades nearly two thousand public coffee houses sprang up in London, and many private clubs took form. This social life greatly influenced the polishing of men's words and manners. However, the typical Londoner was rude and vulgar in his tastes; the streets at night were infested with rowdies and "Mohawks"; all kinds of lawlessness prevailed. Philosophic thought concerned itself with non-constructive criticism. During the first half of the century, religious emotion was apparently dead or dying; art was mediocre; prose literature flourished; poetry declined. The majority of representative society were indifferent and indolent, carelessly submitting to prevailing pleasures offered. There were, of course, a few satirical dissatisfied people like Swift, Lady Mary Montague, Lord Hervey, and Sir Horace Walpole who refused to submit and accept graciously what was prevalent. The lack of intellectual or moral growth occasioned little discomfort. Conditions were recognized, but the apparent results unavoided. Very few had learned the meaning